

CLAIMS

We Claim:

1. A stabilizer bar for an automotive vehicle comprising:
a body having opposing first and second ends; and
an end link mounted to at least one of said first and second ends, said end link having a body portion, a proximal first end, and a distal second end, said proximal first end including portions defining a bore therein and having an inner support surface, said inner support surface being supported on said stabilizer bar by a spherical bearing received within said bore whereby forces transferred from said stabilizer bar to said end link are transferred through said spherical bearing directly to said inner support surface;
said second end of said end link being adapted to connect to a component of the suspension system of the automotive vehicle;
said proximal first end of said end link being secured to said stabilizer bar.
2. The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said stabilizer bar includes at least one groove formed adjacent said first and second ends, said stabilizer bar including a device engaging said at least one groove to secure said end link onto said stabilizer bar.
3. The stabilizer bar of claim 2 wherein said device is a snap ring.

4. The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said end link is secured to said stabilizer bar by a device that frictionally engages an outer surface of said stabilizer bar.

5. The stabilizer bar of claim 4 wherein said device is a collar that is in frictional engagement with said outer surface of said stabilizer bar.

6. The stabilizer bar of claim 4 wherein said device is a lock washer that is in frictional engagement with said outer surface of said stabilizer bar.

7. The stabilizer bar of claim 5 wherein said lock washer is positioned on said stabilizer bar such that said lock washer is positioned between said end link and said end of said stabilizer bar.

8. The stabilizer bar of claim 5 wherein said lock washer is embedded within said spherical bearing wherein once said end link is placed onto said stabilizer bar said spherical bearing will be frictionally secured thereon, thereby securing said end link to said stabilizer bar.

9. The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said stabilizer bar includes a hollow portion near said end of said stabilizer bar and said end link is secured on said stabilizer bar by an end cap positioned within said hollow portion and frictionally engaging an inner surface of said hollow portion.

10. The stabilizer bar of claim 9 wherein said end cap includes a radially extending flange that engages said spherical bearing, and a deformable insert that is selectively compressed thereby causing said deformable insert to expand outward against said inner surface of said hollow portion to frictionally engage said inner surface of said hollow portion.

11. The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said stabilizer bar includes a hollow portion near said end of said stabilizer bar and said end link is secured on said stabilizer bar by an end cap positioned within said hollow portion and mechanically engaging an inner surface of said hollow portion.

12. The stabilizer bar of claim 11 wherein said hollow portion includes a threaded inner surface and said end cap is a threaded fastener, said threaded fastener engaging said threaded inner surface of said hollow portion to secure said threaded fastener and said spherical bearing onto said stabilizer bar.

13. The stabilizer bar of claim 11 wherein said inner surface of said hollow stabilizer bar includes circumferential channels extending at least partially thereabout and said end cap includes a radially extending flange that engages said spherical bearing and a deformable insert having ridges extending radially outward and around said deformable insert wherein said ridges engage said channels to secure said end cap within said hollow portion.

14. The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said spherical bearing is formed from a polymeric material.

15. The stabilizer bar of claim 14 wherein said spherical bearing mechanically engages an outer surface of said stabilizer bar.

16. The stabilizer bar of claim 15 wherein said stabilizer bar includes circumferential channels extending at least partially thereabout and said spherical bearing includes a plurality of ridges extending radially inward such that said ridges engage said channels to secure said spherical bearing onto said stabilizer bar, thereby securing said end link to said stabilizer bar.

17. The stabilizer bar of claim 15 wherein said spherical bearing includes circumferential channels extending at least partially thereabout and said stabilizer bar includes a plurality of ridges extending radially outward such that said ridges engage said channels to secure said spherical bearing onto said stabilizer bar, thereby securing said end link to said stabilizer bar.

18. The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said end link is secured to said stabilizer bar by an adhesive disposed between and interconnecting said spherical bearing and an outer surface of said stabilizer bar.

19. The stabilizer bar of claim 1 wherein said end link is secured to said stabilizer bar by a washer that is welded onto said stabilizer bar.